

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-34 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 15, 20, 24, 27 and 32 being independent. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-15, 20, 24, 26, 28 and 32 have been amended herein.

Initially, Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 13 and 14 recite allowable subject matter. However, because Claim 7 is believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed below, Claims 13 and 14 will not be rewritten in independent form at this time.

In a telephone conversation with the Examiner in January 2006, it was pointed out that Claims 4 and 6 were not addressed in the Office Action. These claims are believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed below.

Claims 1, 3, 7, 9-12 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0145639 (Masuda et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Masuda et al. relates to a printing apparatus that can detect a number of heat sources driving nozzles and supplies voltage to the heat sources in accordance with the detected number of heat sources. Applicants submit that although Masuda et al. may disclose that a driving voltage is changed in accordance with the number of nozzles that are simultaneously driven, the changing of the driving voltage is performed for every head, not for every nozzle. Therefore, Masuda et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least a voltage control device which can (independently) change (respective) driving voltage values of (respective) driving pulses to be supplied to each of a plurality of nozzles, as is recited in independent Claims 1, 3 and 4. Moreover, although in Masuda et al. the driving voltage is changed in accordance with the number of nozzles that are simultaneously driven, this condition is not the same as the conditions of a combination of nozzles to be used for performing a liquid discharge operation to a sheet of medium (substrate), or a number of nozzles to be used for performing a liquid discharge operation to a sheet of the medium (substrate), as is also recited in independent Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 15.

Masuda et al. was not cited against claims directed to a color filter manufacturing method (e.g., Claims 24 and 32). Claim 7 has been amended herein to be directed to a color filter manufacturing method and is therefore also believed to be patentable over Masuda et al.

Thus, Masuda et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in independent Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 15.

Claims 1, 3, 7-12 and 15-34 were rejected under § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0044163 (Shigemura). This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

Shigemura is directed to a method and apparatus for coloring a color filter. The apparatus includes a position adjusting device that can adjust the distance between ink jet heads by moving the ink jet heads in a nozzle row direction. As described in paragraph [0145], a piezoelectric device actuator 123 is provided and a voltage applied to the actuator 123 can be changed to adjust the difference between the first head 120a and second head 120b arranged on head base 1000 as shown in Figure 23. The voltage described therein is not a voltage of driving pulses supplied to nozzles.

Accordingly, Shigemura fails to disclose or suggest at least a voltage control device changing a driving voltage value so as to correct a liquid discharge amount change caused by a change in at least one condition, as is recited in independent Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6.

Shigemura also fails to disclose or suggest at least changing at least one of a voltage value and a pulse width of a driving pulse to be supplied to a predetermined nozzle in accordance with a change in a discharging condition for adjacent nozzle(s), as is recited in independent Claims 7 and 27.

Regarding Claims 15, 20, 24 and 32, Shigemura does not disclose or suggest at least changing at least one of a voltage value and a pulse width of a driving pulse to be supplied to a nozzle so as to correct a change of liquid discharge amount caused by a change in at least one condition or in accordance with a change in a discharging condition for at least one adjacent nozzle.

Thus, Shigemura fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

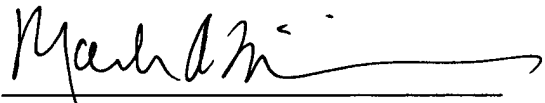
Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 15, 20, 24, 27 and 32 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 15, 20, 24, 27 and 32. Dependent Claims 8-14, 16-19, 21-23, 25, 26, 28-31, 33 and 34 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Williamson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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